Sl No.	Type of aircraft	Date of accident	Cause of accident	Place of accident
45.	MiG-27	10 01 2000	HE	Pokharan Range
46	MiG-27	12 06.2000	TD	Kalaikunda
47.	MiG-27	15 11 2000	TD	Hasimara
48.	MiG-27	17 01 2001	TD	Hasimara
49	MiG-27	07 06 2002	TD	Srinagar
50.	MiG-27	19 12 2002	TD	Kalaikunda
51	MiG-29	04 07 2001	HE	Adampur
52	MiG-29	11 04 2002	HE	Belgaum

HE- Human Error
TD- Technical Defect
BH- Bird Hit
UI - Under Investigation

Upgradation of MIG-27

301 SHRI EKANATH K THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Indian Air Force (IAF) is re-examining the ongoing upgradation programme of MIG-27 and is planning to change its R-29 engine with a variant of the modern AL-31 engine that powers the Su-30 MKI;

(b) if so, the reasons for this change of engine,

(c) whether MIG-27 is undergoing a mid-life upgradation programme at present, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) (a) There is no change in the upgradation programme of MIG-27 aircraft No decision for replacement of engine of MIG-27 aircraft with AL-31 engine has been taken

(b) Does not arise

(c) Yes, Sir

(d) The upgradation programme of forty MIG-27 aircraft has already commenced During the Design & Development phase, Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) will do the avionics integration activities and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) will carry out the modification work on two aircraft. The series modification of the remaining aircraft will be undertaken by HAL

Sino-Indian AIR and naval exercise

302 SHRI NANA DESHMUKH Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state

(a) whether Sino-Indian air and naval exercises are on the cards,

(b) if so, whether such joint exercises would be a step towards betterment of relations between the two coutries, and

(c) if so, what are the probable dates and venue of the exercises?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) During the visit of our Prime Minister to China in June 2003, the possibility of joint naval search and rescue exercises was agreed to As of now, there are no plans to carry out any exercises involving the Air Forces of the two countries

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) The probable dates and the venue for such exercises have not been worked out as yet

Damage to aircraft carrier Vikrant

303 SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra had lately invited attenton of Government to the threat of the aircraft carrier Vikrant getting submerged and incurring irreparable damage, unless rescue operations are taken before monsoon, and